

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00226 080434Z

21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06

SAJ-01 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1344

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 0226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL CH

SUBJ: CONSTRUCTION OF THIRD PRC EARTH SATELLITE
STATION

1. LEONARD NATHAN, ENGINEER OF GTE SYLVANIA, BRIEFED USLO OFFICER ON FEBRUARY 7 ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE PRC'S THIRD EARTH SATELLITE STATION. NATHAN, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF INSTALLATION, HAS BEEN IN PEKING SINCE NOVEMBER.
 2. NATHAN SAID THAT THE FIRST TWO STATIONS, ONE IN SHANGHAI AND ONE IN PEKING, WERE SOLD BY RCA. CONSTRUCTION OF BOTH OF THOSE HAS BEEN COMPLETED, HE SAID, AND BOTH ARE ORIENTED FOR TRANS-PACIFIC COMMUNICATIONS. THE STATION HE IS WORKING ON, WHICH IS ALSO NEAR PEKING (NORTHWEST OF THE CITY), WAS SOLD BY WESTERN UNION INTERNATIONAL (WUI) FOR ABOUT DOLS3.5 MILLION. GTE IS A SUB-CONTRACTOR AND BECAME INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT WHEN HUGHES AIRCRAFT HAD DROPPED OUT. THIS STATION, NATHAN SAID, WHICH IS NOW VERY CLOSE TO COMPLETION, IS ORIENTED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AND WILL PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS TO SOUTH ASIA, EUROPE, AND AFRICA. HE EXPECTS THE TWO REMAINING AMERICANS (AT ONE POINT THERE WAS A TOTAL OF
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PAGE 02 PEKING 00226 080434Z

SIX) TO BE ABLE TO LEAVE WITHIN 2 OR 3 WEEKS. WHILE HIS JOB

IS ALMOST DONE, HE SAID, PRC FACILITIES IN PEKING TO MAKE
USE OF THE STATION ARE NOT YET READY.

3. NATHAN THOUGHT THE CHINESE BOUGHT THE THIRD STATION FROM
WUI INSTEAD OF RCA IN ORDER TO BROADEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF
THE TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED. HE IS IMPRESSED BY THE ANXIETY OF
THE CHINESE TECHNICIANS TO OBTAIN AS MUCH TECHNICAL DETAIL
AS POSSIBLE (MUCH OF WHICH HE IS NOT AUTHORIZED BY HIS
COMPANY TO PROVIDE), AND IS CONVINCED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE
TO ATTEMPT TO CONSTRUCT SUCH A FACILITY ON THEIR OWN.
JENKINS

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Message Attributes

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